

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KABUL 04706 111158Z

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S E C R E T KABUL 4706

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EO 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PEPR, EAID, AF

SBJ: UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM'S TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST:

QUESTION OF CONTINUED ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR AFGHANISTAN

REF: STATE 136820

1. DURING UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM'S STOPS AT VARIOUS OIL-WEALTHY CAPITALS IN THIS REGION, I ANTICIPATE THAT THE TOPIC OF CONTINUED ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN WILL BE RAISED BY HIS HOSTS. THIS IS MOST LIKELY TO OCCUR, WE WOULD GUESS, IN JIDDAH, KUWAIT, AND TEHRAN, IF THE UNDER SECRETARY STOPS THERE. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE HAVE HEARD THAT SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN ARE CONSIDERING THE TERMINATION OF ALL ECONOMIC AID TO AFGHANISTAN IN VIEW OF THIS GOVERNMENT'S PRO-SOVIET COLORATION.

2. IF THE UNDER SECRETARY IS ASKED FOR THE USG'S VIEWS, I SUGGEST THAT HE RESPOND BY EXPLAINING OUR CURRENT PROBING POLICY (REFTEL), AND THAT WE BELIEVE, IN PRINCIPLE, THAT WE MUST TRY TO MAINTAIN LINKS WITH THIS REGIME AND OFFER IT ALTERNATIVE WINDOWS TO THE ONE IT HAS OPENED WIDE TO THE NORTH. IN THE SAME VEIN, WE HOPE OTHER

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DONOR STATES WILL MAINTAIN SOME AID FLOWS TO AFGHANISTAN SO LONG AS THIS COUNTRY DISPLAYS SOME DEGREE OF NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE AND NONALIGNMENT.

3. WHILE I BELIEVE THAT ANY CONSISTENT PATTERN OF SLAVISH PRO-MOSCOW BEHAVIOR BY AFGHANISTAN SHOULD NOT BE REWARDED BY LARGE-SCALE ECONOMIC

ASSISTANCE FROM THE FREE WORLD, I THINK THAT,
SHORT OF THAT EVENTUALITY, THE FREE WORLD SHOULD
USE THE LEVERAGE AND PERSON-TO-PERSON OPPORTUNITIES
PROVIDED BY ECONOMIC AID TO TRY TO KEEP AFGHANISTAN
FROM TURNING INTO ANOTHER CUBA. PARTICULARLY USEFUL
FROM A POLITICAL VIEWPOINT WOULD BE TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS WHICH ENABLE AFGHANS TO
RECEIVE EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN THE FREE WORLD.
IT WOULD BE MOST UNFORTUNATE AND GIVE THE WHOLE
FIELD TO THE SOVIETS IF DONORS SUCH AS KUWAIT, SAUDI
ARABIA, AND IRAN AT THIS JUNCTURE WERE TO REACT TO THIS
GOVERNMENT BY SLAMMING THEIR DOORS ON AFGHANISTAN,
STOPPING ALL FORMS OF AID, PARTICULARLY OPPORTUNITIES
TO EXPAND PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE CONTACTS.
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